

# Memorandum



**Date:**

**To:** Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor  
Honorable Chairperson Barbara Carey-Shuler, Ed.D.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**From:** George M. Burgess  
County Manager

**Subject:** Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program Post-Election Report

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On November 2, Miami-Dade County made history with passage of the \$2.9 billion *Building Better Communities* General Obligation Bond Program. Voters overwhelmingly approved each of the eight ballot questions (see attached) resulting in what is now, according to the *Bond Buyer*, the largest bond program of its kind in the Southeastern U.S. and the third largest in the nation.

This achievement was realized only through your foresight and the enormous public outreach effort in which people from all sectors of Miami-Dade came together to do something important for us and generations to come. Your leadership in this grassroots effort was invaluable.

There is now much work ahead as we move forward in creating a work plan and timeline for the next 15 years to implement the more than 300 neighborhood and regional projects comprising this bond program. In coming weeks, my office will prepare for your consideration the ordinances and resolutions necessary to continue the momentum of the program including a proposal for the formation of a citizens' advisory board to provide ongoing constituent input into the process.

As you know, the County's municipalities played an important role in the development of the bond program. We will continue to work closely with the municipalities as we finalize the scheduling of all defined projects over the life of the bond program and complete the development of Interlocal Agreements for the specific projects that are part of the local component of the bond program.

One year ago, recognizing the County's critical infrastructure needs, you provided the impetus to develop and place before electorate the first comprehensive, countywide bond program in more than three decades. In approving the *Building Better Communities* Bond Program, the voters of Miami-Dade have given us the opportunity to re-invest in our community by improving our public facilities in many important ways. I look forward to working with you to ensure that this voter confidence is rewarded by the successful implementation of the *Building Better Communities* projects.

Finally, I also wish to join you in expressing my gratitude and recognizing the County staff who worked so tirelessly on the bond program.

Attachment

**c:** Honorable Joseph P. Farina, Chief Judge, Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of Courts  
Honorable Bennett H. Brummer, Public Defender  
Honorable Katherine Fernandez-Rundle, State Attorney  
Robert A. Ginsburg, County Attorney  
Marvin O'Quinn, President/CEO, Public Health Trust  
Robert Meyers, Executive Director, Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
Christopher Mazzella, Inspector General  
Assistant County Managers

**2004 *Building Better Communities* General Obligation Bond Program  
Special Bond Election Final Tally\*  
November 2, 2004**

<b>BOND QUESTION</b>	<b>VOTES FOR AND AGAINST BONDS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>	<b>TOTAL VOTES<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 1 FOR AGAINST</b>	457,168 218,484	67.66% 32.34%	675,652
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 2 FOR AGAINST</b>	449,293 230,415	66.10% 33.90%	679,708
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 3 FOR AGAINST</b>	425,122 248,283	63.13% 36.87%	673,405
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 4 FOR AGAINST</b>	430,939 241,533	64.08% 35.92%	672,472
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 5 FOR AGAINST</b>	479,451 193,401	71.26% 28.74%	672,852
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 6 FOR AGAINST</b>	383,238 274,604	58.26% 41.74%	657,842
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 7 FOR AGAINST</b>	474,398 194,923	70.88% 29.12%	669,321
<b>COUNTY BOND QUESTION 8 FOR AGAINST</b>	441,287 233,279	65.42% 34.58%	674,566

\* Source: Official Cumulative Report –November 2, 2004 General Election at  
<http://elections.miamidade.gov/cumu110204.xls>

1. Totals do not include over or under votes.